Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 295594

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UN,BY,US

SUBJECT: BURUNDI'S UN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

REF: (A) STATE 292131; (B) BUJUMBURA 1096

1. US CONCERNS REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF BURUNDIAN UN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR NZEYIMANA DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION DECEMBER 2. NZEYIMANA, WHO ADMITTED TO HAVING HAD HIS OWN PROBLEMS WITH EX-FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANINIYE, UNDERTOOK TO INFORM GRB DISCREETLY OF OUR CONCERNS, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DESIRE FOR IMPROVED MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UN PERMREP'S ROLE IN THIS REGARD. NZEYIMANA INDICATED THAT RELAYING OUR CONCERNS TO THE GRB WOULD BE A DELICATE TASK, BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS AN OUTGROWTH OF NZEYIMANA'S OWN POOR RELATIONS WITH SIMBANINIYE.

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2.NZEYIMANA CHALLENGED OUR CHARACTERIZATION OF SIMBANINIYE

AS BEING "ANTI-WESTERN . HE SAID NEITHER WAS SIMBANINIYE "PRO-COMMUNIST", ADDING THAT THOSE WHO KNEW SIMBANINIYE REFERRED TO HIM AS "LE FASCIST".

3. IN VIEW OFYOUR APPROACHES THERE COUPLED WITH OUR DISCUSSION WITH NZEYIMANA, WE ARE INCLINED NOW TO LET THE MATTER REST AND HOPE FOR THE BEST. IN CONSULTATIONS WITH USUN, WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO APPROACH MINISTER NYABOYA, WHO IS PRESENTLY IN NEW YORK (AS SUGGESTED REFTEL B). IN VIEW OF THE TIMING OF THE QUESTION AND NYBOYA'S RELATIVE NEWNESS, WE FEEL THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE OR DISINCLINEDTO TAKE ANY EFFECTIVE ACTION. KISSINGER

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